

CAN BE BOTTLED UP.

If Admiral Cervera's Fleet is at Santiago De Cuba, as Reported,

THE PLACE WILL BE A RAT TRAP FOR THEM

And a Single American Monitor Could Hold the whole Squadron From this fact it would appear that Sampson has the Spaniards just where he wanted them—General Merritt will be treated with the utmost liberality in the equipment of his expedition to the Philippines—Advice Guard will sail from San Francisco to-day.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—All of the news that was given out to-day at the navy department, was comprised in the one short bulletin, posted at the close of the day, stating that the DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMATION BELIEVED TO BE AUTHENTIC THAT ADMIRAL CERVERA'S FLEET WAS AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

This went to confirm the newspaper reports, and also the Madrid cablegram published this morning, the latter a rather unusual circumstance, for the Spanish bulletins have been notably deceptive ever since the flying squadron left Cadiz. Accepting this statement as correct, it indicates that there is little probability of a hostile meeting between Sampson or Schley and Cervera immediately.

LOOKING OVER THE CHARTS OF SANTIAGO HARBOR, THE EXPERTS SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE PLACE WOULD BE A VERITABLE RAT TRAP FOR THE SPANISH FLEET. WITH ITS NARROW ENTRANCE IN WHICH A SINGLE AMERICAN MONITOR COULD BOTTLE UP THE WHOLE SPANISH FLEET.

The naval strategy board, re-considered of late the war board, is in loss one of its most active and valuable members in the person of Captain Barker. He leaves Washington to-morrow for Hampton Roads to take command of the fine protected cruiser Newark, which has just been extensively repaired at the Norfolk navy yard. It is expected that the Newark will join Sampson's squadron in the Caribbean Sea, and that it will get there. It has not been determined who will succeed Captain Barker as a member of the war board, a place requiring the very highest professional qualifications and involving a knowledge of strategy as taught scientifically, which is not the possession of all naval officers. It may be that the vacancy will not be filled at present, though there has been a considerable number of names of Admiral Ramsay, retired, in that connection.

Another loss to the department will occur to-morrow when Lieutenant Gibbons leaves to assume command of the ship of the line, the USS Oregon, Captain Barker's officer on the Newark.

The Philippine Expedition. Preparations go on steadily for the Philippine military expedition. Gen. Merritt, who will command, stopped in Washington this morning, on his way westward from New York, and spent most of the day in consultation with the details of the expedition. Another transport was secured to-day, and the department is showing a disposition to treat General Merritt with the utmost liberality in the equipment of his force. It is expected that the expedition will be on a vessel under the command of General Otis, will call out of the Golden Gate to-morrow, bound for the Philippines.

The complaints of the shoeless among the volunteers just brought into the department just placed orders for 200,000 soldiers' shoes. A beginning was made to-day towards the organization of independent volunteer forces under authority conferred upon the President by special resolution. The national office will have no part in these organizations, which will be made up of engineers, immunes and electricians.

The staff assignments are coming out rapidly in the general orders issued by the department and including what might be made generally upon the request of the major generals and the brigadier generals yet to be provided for in this matter.

Relieved of Embarrassment. The state department to-day announced that the Polonia, the Hamburg-American line steamer at Key West, which was authorized to land certain passengers in Havana, had declined to avail itself of the privilege, so the department is relieved of what promised to be an embarrassing incident, and of the necessity of explaining what might prove to be a dangerous precedent.

The department published in the shape of a circular report to-day some statistics of the United States Consul Williams at Manila. They show that last year out of 322 vessels of all kinds departing from the Philippines, twenty-two were from the United States, 180 from Great Britain, twenty-seven from Germany and forty-seven from Spain. The arrivals were about in the same proportion. Mr. Williams' last report is dated April 2nd, and shows a most flourishing condition of the Philippine customs, the receipts for February last exceeding by \$17,000 the receipts for the corresponding month of 1897.

Pure Invention. Officials here disclaim as pure invention the story coming from Montreal that former Minister Polo has succeeded in securing for Spain a coaling station on one of the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the New Foundland coast. At the French embassy in this city is treated with indignant contempt, as a French desire of neutrality in binding the French government of these islands and islands and islands, the granting of such exceptional privileges as coaling stations, is not generally known, that France possesses these small islands in the North Atlantic. When the French gave up Canada and New Foundland to the British, it was provided in the treaty of the Utrecht that France should retain the two islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and have since been utilized as coaling stations for French steamers.

The Navy department was also called for a ship floating dock capable of floating a ship of 16,000 tons, to cost

THE CURTAIN ABOUT TO RISE

On the First Act of the Real Drama of War in the Meeting of the Formidable Fleets.

SHIPS LEAVE KEY WEST IN SEARCH OF THE FLEET.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 20.—The prologue has been spoken and the curtain is about to rise on the first act of the drama. This is the unwavering opinion of naval men here.

Devey's brilliant achievement at Manila is regarded as a separate episode. San Juan is already a memory; and the sporadic encounters along the Cuban coast are accepted as merely preliminary skirmishes, tentative rather than decisive. The meeting of two great hostile fleets is the pivot upon which the situation turns and a few days, perhaps hours, will bring them together in the universal view here at the base of operations.

This view is confirmed by the news that Admiral Cervera's squadron has reached Santiago de Cuba. The intelligence came to-day, and if it did not affect the situation, it was a singular coincidence that activity among our ships was perceptibly heightened and the work of coaling and provisioning those in the harbor was rushed with more than usual haste.

The ships were surreptitiously creeping toward the open sea when day dawned and the ranks of naval men ashore were constantly thinning until at dusk there was scarcely one to be seen. The newspaper despatch boats have nearly all departed with particular care not to lose sight of the United States warships.

The center of interest again shifts away from Key West; but whither is the question none can answer. Otherwise the day has been dull and empty of action.

Some little stir was created by the discovery of a secret chamber in the hold of the Spanish prize steamer Argonauta, containing fifteen cases of ammunition, over a hundred Mauser rifles and other war stores. The "find" was made by the United States marshal's officers, and dissipated all doubt as to the Argonauta's status as a prize of war.

It was on board this steamer that Lieutenant Colonel Cortijo, Weyler's brother-in-law, was captured with other Spanish soldiers now prisoners in Fort McPherson, Atlanta.

The reports that several new Spanish prizes were being brought in to-day are unfounded. The only new arrival of this character was the barkentine Carlos F. Rosas, the story of whose capture last Tuesday has already been told. She was brought in here by a prize crew and anchored along with the other prizes in the harbor.

Persons with which it was supposed they were to poison water used by the troops, is a fake pure and simple, and several boys who are indulging in liquor, cigarettes and other vices, and who are here as alleged correspondents of certain newspapers. There is not the slightest foundation for the story, all well behaved and content to guard against pollution as well as waste of water.

GREAT REJOICING

In Madrid Official Circles Over the Arrival of Cervera's Fleet at Santiago de Cuba.

Madrid, May 20.—At 10 o'clock last evening the minister of marine, Captain Aunon, received a dispatch from Admiral Cervera, in command of the Cupe Verde squadron of the Spanish fleet. It read:

"SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 19. This morning I have without incident entered this port, accompanied by the squadron. (Signed) 'CERVERA.'"

The minister of marine immediately went to the residence of the president, Senor Sagasta, and communicated this information. He then proceeded to the palace for the purpose of informing the queen, but her majesty had retired, and the news was conveyed to her by the infant Isabel.

Continuing, the dispatch says: "The blockading vessels quickly left on the approach of the squadron, whose arrival has created the greatest excitement and enthusiasm at Santiago. Immediately crowds of people thronged the quays and cheered our sailors. Havana's relief of the long arrival of the fleet is very great. It is feared the American ships which left the blockade had gone to intercept the Spanish fleet. It is now believed the Americans fled in order to avoid a reverse."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Spanish Advice Says Cervera's Fleet has Left Santiago. MADRID, May 20.—Midnight.—It is asserted that Admiral Cervera's squadron has left Santiago de Cuba.

The government, it is said, has received a dispatch from Havana announcing that "the rebels have pronounced in favor of Spain and are now making common cause with the Spaniards to defeat the Americans."

ROMANCE OF WAR

Erangelina Cisneros is To Marry one who Helped Rescue Her. WASHINGTON, May 20.—Erangelina Cisneros, the young Cuban girl, is soon to wed Mr. Charles Carbonel, the former Cuban banker, who was yesterday nominated to be a lieutenant and aide on the staff of Major General Fitzhugh Lee.

When Mr. Decker went to Havana with the express purpose of liberating Miss Cisneros, he found a trusted lieutenant in the person of Mr. Carbonel, although, like Mr. Decker, he was at the time unacquainted with the fair young Cuban. When the night of the rescue from the Havana prison came Mr. Carbonel was at Decker's side during the entire affair.

To Carbonel was entrusted the duty and privilege of accompanying the girl to New York. Companionship between the two natives of a common clime soon

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Then the premier continued, is a strong policy and the new government will also energetically conduct negotiations with European and other states. Count Penaranda proposed the senate's congratulations to Admiral Cervera on his arriving safely at Santiago de Cuba, and "cleverly dodging the American warships were repulsed."

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A Spanish official version of the engagement said to have taken place off Santiago de Cuba yesterday previous to the arrival of the Spanish fleet, was that the American warships were repulsed, and adds that one of them was damaged.

In the chamber Senor Sagasta repeated his senate speech. Senor Silveira, leader of the dissident conservatives, replied that the decision of the conservative party approved the policy of Senor Sagasta, and would support the new cabinet.

Senor Romero y Robledo, leader of the Weylerites, pressed a resolution of interpellation maintaining that the old government was in a crisis from the very declaration of war, and that if the present cabinet is to continue the policy of the old cabinet, then the present cabinet also was in a crisis.

All sides of the house received this dilemma with merriment. Senor Romero y Robledo then pressed Senor Gamazo, minister of public instruction, public works, agriculture and commerce, to disclose his individual opinion and to say how far he endorsed the ministerial policy of the reconstructed cabinet, in view of the fact that the present cabinet was a continuation of the policy of the old cabinet.

Senor Sagasta explained that cabinet changes were due to the fact that several ministers were "ill and extremely fatigued after the recent anxieties."

He said the cabinet found itself confronted with war or dishonor, and accepted the former, adding solemnly, "the Spanish government will never accept peace if the territorial integrity of Spain is not maintained, and otherwise Spain is determined to fight a stout out-throw." (Loud cheers.)

Later Senor Sagasta promised a day to debate the Red Book.

Together, however, the debate was disappointed, as the public galleries, which had expected sensational scenes.

Prof. Salmeron made a speech vigorously attacking the cabinet.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

Some Progress Made on the War Revenue Bill. WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20.—At the conclusion of to-day's session of the senate the reading of the war revenue measure had been completed. About seven-eighths of the amendments proposed by the senate committee have been agreed to.

Those remaining are, quite naturally, the most important in the bill, and will provoke a deal of discussion. The principal amendments yet to be taken up are those relating to the issue of bonds and certificates of indebtedness, the tobacco tax, the tax on proprietary articles, the issue of greenbacks, the collection of the silver seigniorage, the issue of silver certificates, and the inheritance tax on corporations. The question upon some of the amendments will depend upon that of others.

Mr. Aldrich (Rep., R. I.) to-day offered a substitute for the paragraph relating to the change of the seigniorage, the issue of silver certificates and the issue of legal tender notes, the bill continues to increase the Republic. If the bond provision should be accepted by the senate, the amendments of Democrats in the future would naturally be rejected.

Mr. Daniel (Dem., Va.) delivered an extended speech, strongly opposing an issue of bonds, and supporting the substitute paragraphs proposed by the Democratic committee. Adjournment was taken to Monday. The house was in session to-day, having adjourned yesterday to Monday.

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THE WAR CLOUD

Is Not Affecting the Nation's Industries, on the Contrary, It is Stimulating Many Lines—Key of the Situation is the Prosperity of the West.

NEW YORK, May 20.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade will say to-morrow:

Growing accustomed to war possibilities which are mostly far from probabilities of evil, and finding the nation moving along steadily in its industries, people are grasping the idea that a throwing away some months of active and profitable life to wait until the war clouds have passed.

Western prosperity has so greatly overbalanced timidity of eastern capitalists that actual business done increases, railroad earnings promise better for May than a month ago for April, and payments through clearing houses, for the week in May show a gain of 34.0 per cent over last year, and 1.1 per cent over 1897, while a month ago the increase over last year was 23.5 per cent, and compared with 1892 there was a decrease of 7.2 per cent.

Several large contracts kept back from some western business, and instead of working, closing or reducing forces, returns show the starting of some works long idle, and increase of force of 100,000 in others. Government work is also being established, but it counts little compared with other demands.

The key of the situation is the prosperity of the west which the algebric and unprecedented marketing of breadstuffs has caused, with the prospect of good crops to come. These prospects and the actual receipts of wheat amounting to 5,678,175 bushels for the week against 2,435,165 last year, with advances also in other grain and cash, have produced a demand for rails, cars, car material, fencing agricultural implements, boots and shoes, and all textile goods, which which was not anticipated from eastern indications. Exports of wheat will not diminish but in three weeks from Atlantic ports flour included have been 7,055,588 bushels, against 4,778,742 last year and from Pacific ports 1,738,121 bushels, against 1,000,000 last year. The price of May wheat fell 44c on Saturday, rose 7c to Tuesday and closed 4c higher for the week.

In iron, notwithstanding the greatest output ever known, the demand has caused some advance in Bessemer pig, with only a slight decline in the price of grey iron at Pittsburgh, but full quotations are obtained at Chicago and Philadelphia. In lace and other textile goods, but at the west, the demand is strongly sustained by demands for car building, in plate, and structural forms all the works are fully employed and generally crowded for months ahead.

One contract for six thousand tons armor plate for Great Britain has been taken by works for inland with another of similar quantity showing that the demand is in spite of higher prices. Freight, is not yet arrested. Tin is maintained at 14 1/2 cents by larger consumption and lake copper at 12c, in spite of American production amounting to 2,000 tons for the month, 10 per cent larger than last year, with a slight decrease in the production of foreign mines.

The textile works are doing rather better, even the cotton mills in spite of their over-production, for some of large importance have recently started again. Numerous woolen mills are also busy, and prices for a few grades of goods are better with a stronger tone in the market generally, although some mills of importance have been closed, and may be re-opened for the season hereafter.

White sales of wool are small, at 33.50 pounds for the three weeks past against 27,563,700 last year, the maximum for the season have been reached. Failures for the week have been 250 in the United States, against 248 last week and 29 in Canada, against 37 last week.

CHANGES TO BE MADE

Is the War Revenue Bill, More Especially in the Tobacco Section. WASHINGTON, May 20.—The senate committee on finance finds it necessary to make additional amendments to the war revenue bill before proceeding farther with the measure, and an adjournment of the senate will be taken at the close of to-day's session until Monday in order to allow the committee to devote the entire day to-morrow to this work.

There is no division on party lines on the changes required, as they are largely of a technical character. The most important change which has been urged and which now seems likely to be made is that altering the tobacco schedule. It looks as if the house rate of twelve cents a pound would be restored on manufactured tobacco and as if there would be a change in the schedule as to life insurance.

There is also a desire to have mutual life insurance companies exempt from some of the requirements of the provision in regard to insurance organizations, and a movement to restore the house provision relating to building and loan associations.

SENATOR PLATT'S SCHEME

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Senator Platt, of New York, to-day gave notice of his intention to offer an amendment to the war revenue bill providing for the funding of outstanding greenbacks and treasury notes at the pleasure of the holder in bonds bearing two per cent interest. The principal of these bonds is made payable at the pleasure of the government after the other interest-bearing debts of the government are paid, and until finally paid they are made non-convertible into greenbacks and treasury notes. The amendment also provides

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